

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 22, 2000

The House met at 10:30 a.m.

The Reverend Elizabeth C. Sisco, Christ United Methodist Church, Levelland, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Most Holy One, we are Your people. Today, once again, we ask that Your wisdom, truth and mercy guide the decisions that will be made here in these halls.

May the law made here be such that each of Your children, wherever they may be, experiences Your promise of peace and justice.

May this promise become a reality which recognizes, accepts, affirms and respects our differences; a reality which shares and honors our common humanity; a reality which seeks truth with sensitivity and fairness; a reality which nurtures all of Your creation; a reality which commits to our service of each other in a real and diverse world; a reality which affirms Your gift of grace to all men, women and children.

This we pray in the name of the One who was, is, and always will be. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed until later today.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NADLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 97. Concurrent resolution expressing the support of Congress for activities to increase public awareness of multiple sclerosis.

## REVEREND ELIZABETH SISCO

(Mr. COMBEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome and honor the Reverend Elizabeth Sisco, who graciously offered today's morning prayer. Reverend Sisco is a remarkable pastor and civic leader who has touched the lives of many in the West Texas community.

Reverend Sisco serves at Christ United Methodist Church in Levelland, Texas, where she focuses on empowering her congregation. Even before Reverend Sisco went to seminary, she took an extraordinarily active role in her church and worked to raise thousands of dollars to aid the poor in Texas. A proud wife, mother, and grandmother, she also served her community on the Lubbock Independent School Board.

Reverend Sisco began studying theology with the intention of gaining more church responsibility for the lay people of her church. She was called to the clergy when she discovered that she could change lives with her keen understanding of theology and her ability to draw individuals together.

Reverend Sisco has certainly changed lives as a mediator, a confidant, and respected community figure. I thank her for the words she offered this morning and her gift of service to our region.

## GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, our country is flooded with deadly weapons, and it is time we take real action to protect our families and children from the wave of gun violence that is sweeping America.

Too many innocent people have died because of the lack of tough, smart, Federal gun control laws. Too many criminals, mentally unstable individuals and children still have easy access to handguns.

The American people are calling out for change in our gun laws. They support closing the gaping gun show loophole in the Brady law. They support banning large capacity ammunition clips. They demand trigger locks. And as the Million Mom March will demonstrate on Mother's Day, they also support handgun licensing and registration.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the legislation that I introduced and several others introduced in September to require licensing and registration of all handguns.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is not with the American people; they know what is best for the country. They support common sense gun safety legislation. The problem is with the leadership of this House that is subservient to the NRA. As long as the NRA controls this House, the people's voice will not be heard. Sadly, the American people pay a heavy price for the failure of the leadership of this House.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS NEED TO BE ENFORCED

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is a good question. Just exactly who is subservient to whom? The Vice President of the United States had as one of his principal campaign fund raisers an agent of the Chinese government.

My colleagues, it is true that our children are vulnerable, but not to law-abiding citizens who obey existing laws. They are vulnerable to those who refuse to enforce existing laws and those who would break campaign laws. Yet our friends from the left will get up and talk about campaign finance reform.

I would remind this body again, to have the Clinton-Gore gang talk about campaign finance reform is akin to Bonnie and Clyde at the height of their crime spree holding a press conference demanding tougher penalties for bank robbers. It is absurd.

We embrace the Constitution, we embrace enforcing and abiding by existing law, and all the laws in the world make no difference if they are not obeyed.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.